



U.S. Department of Justice  
United States Attorney  
District of Kansas

## NEWS RELEASE

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February 4, 2004

## OTTAWA, KANSAS, MAN CONVICTED OF MANUFACTURING METHAMPHETAMINE

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Rollie P. Brooks**, 41, Ottawa, Kansas, was convicted on February 2, 2004, in U.S. District Court in Kansas City, Kansas, following a five day jury trial of **one count of attempting to manufacture methamphetamine; one count of manufacturing methamphetamine; one count of possessing a silencer; one count of possessing a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime; and nine counts of possessing pseudoephedrine to use in the manufacture of methamphetamine.**

Melgren stated that according to evidence presented at trial, the Lawrence Police Department was notified by the Super Target, Lawrence, Kansas, on February 11, 2003, that for the third day in a row Brooks had purchased boxes of ephedrine/pseudoephedrine from the store. Cold pills containing ephedrine/pseudoephedrine, are a key ingredient in the manufacture of methamphetamine. Following an investigation by the Lawrence Police Department Drug Enforcement Unit, the Franklin County Drug Enforcement Unit, and the Douglas County Drug Enforcement Unit, a warrant was executed at a property in Ottawa, Kansas, on March 19, 2003, and officers found a working methamphetamine laboratory in an RV belonging to Brooks. Officers also found empty cold pill boxes and a receipt for the purchase of cold pills in a pickup belonging to Brooks parked next to the RV. Brooks was arrested later that day and officers found drug paraphernalia, methamphetamine, a silencer and a handgun in his vehicle.

Brooks faces a minimum of five years and a maximum of forty years for attempting to manufacture methamphetamine and manufacturing methamphetamine; a maximum of ten years for possessing a silencer; a maximum of life for possessing a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime; and a maximum of twenty years for possessing pseudoephedrine to be used to manufacture methamphetamine. Sentencing is set for April 26, 2004, at 1:30 p.m. before Chief U.S. District Judge John W. Lungstrum.

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Melgren commended the excellent work of the Lawrence Police Department Drug Enforcement Unit, the Franklin County Drug Enforcement Unit, the Douglas County Drug Enforcement Unit and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives in this investigation, the Super Target store for alerting the authorities to the suspicious activity, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Terra Morehead and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Tristram Hunt in this prosecution.